THE MOFFETT REGISTER.

Virginia's Experience with Her New Liquor Tax.

HISTORY OF THE LAW AND THE PUNCH.

The Revenues to the State as Shown by the Returns.

DIFFICULTIES OF ENFORCEMENT.

Always a Nuisance and Never a Benefit to the Saloon Keeper.

A PROMOTER OF PRIVATE TIPPLING.

The tax on liquors by means of the Moffett Register the crude application to America of the similar tax on the consumption of food articles in the countries controlled by civil law. The refined taxation which seeks to collect the tax directly from the consumer the invention of that Roman civilization to the tax on contracts by means of stamps, the tax on the tax of contracts by means of sensing the tax on incomes, it is she product of a high civilization, and far more search-ing than the semi-barbarous mothods by which govgence in exact proportion to the extent of that sigence, and there is no doubt that if his idea can from any indirect tax that can be levied, and much greater than can be obtained except from a burden-some direct tax on property. The Mofiett tax is a direct tax on pleasure and self-indulgence, and as life of a community the results of such a levy must

enator and now Delegate from the county of Rock-igham, which was put into practical form by Mr. Ottis F. Dean, an ingenious mechanic and inventor of this city. Dr. Moffatt, at the beginning of the session General Assembly of 1876-77, began to advocate ns plan of a tax on liquor by making the seller pay ed a machine for registering drinks. This was a on old-fashioned square coffee grinder, with a the handle a belt inside the box was struck and Senator Grimsley and the late Judge since become famous as the Moffett Liquor Law. This law passed the House after is during the discussion that in the Senate of fortyole against it. They were the representatives of the sties, for the intention had become manifest that the revailing motive of the supporters of the project mate its another tax on the cities, and thus save and the rural population from an increase of iens. The law, from the beginning, has been cular in the country, and while opposed in the se by the business interests affected was also with tarkable unanimity approved by the mass of those

THE REGISTRE.

The Model register is a cast tree box with machingry inside moving works like those of a gas metra. It has six disas on the surface. The first dist registers units up to ten, the second tens up to a hundred, the third hundreds up to a thousand, and so on up to a million. It is a combination of the gas metre and an ordinary table gong or ball struck by a spring with a hammer attached. When a drink is sold the nancie hammer attended. We as a urisal as sont in handle is turned, the best punch anneunces the lact, and the hand on the first dist moves one point. This is the Moffel register. It is scoured by a simple, ingenious and very excellent lock, invented by Mr. Jonson, the mechanic who has the contract for making the machines, and it is quite safe from being tampered

machines, and it is quite sale from being tampered with.

The Moffet law requires sale on keeper or retail desier of hiquors to have two of these registers, one for spirituous liquors and wine, the other for malt liquors. For every drink sold by the barkeeper or hall pint sold by the retail desier, the creak of the register is turned, the boil sounds and the hand on the unit disk moves one point. The Commissioner of Revence visits each place and takes the state of the register three times a month, just as the state of the register three times a month, just as the state of the gas metre is taken at stated of the register three times a month, just as the state of the gas metre is taken at stated of the register three times a month, just as the state of the register three times a month, just as the state of the register three times a month, just as the state of the register three times a month, just as the state of the gas metre is taken at sale of the gas metre is taken at sale of the gas cents of a spirit of the gas metre is taken at half cents, or on each drink or half pint of malt inquer one-half a cont. When it is known that the people of Virginia consume \$15,000,000 worth of liquor each year, of which certainly \$10,000,000 worth is subject to this tax, and when it is intriner known that the tax is certainly thirty-three per cent and v-lorem on the inquer sood it will be seen that the Moffet register ought to produce in Virginia a revenue of \$3,000,000. The triends and sanguine advocates of this tax never could consent to admit that it would yield test than from one million to half a million annually.

Amount of the Revenue.

Money register ought to produce in Virginia a revenue of \$4,300,000. The irrends and sanguine avvocates of this tax never could consent to admit that it would yield cast than from one million to half a million annually.

Amount of this revenue.

It is difficult at this time to form an estimate of what will be actually paid under the present inefficient system of onforcing the Moffet Liquor law, but it seems probable that the total net income tan year will not exceed \$800,000, which is about two-thirds more than was previously received from the tax on liquors. The Auditor of Public Accounts in his report to the General Amembly January 19, 1878, lurnished a autencent of pertial rearns from twelve cities and from thirty-three counties and estimating the annual yield from those piaces for a whole year on the basis of what had been returned placed the amount at \$241,111 17. He then estimates that the estimate of the state of the current year \$341,111 7. It is quite apparent now, with an experience extended both in time and territory, that his calimate was excessive. As the liquor dealers, particularly the sairon Keepers, found in time a great failing off in their bustness on account of the crushing nature of the tax, they have been impelled more and grore to evade the payment of it, and the returns have steadily diminished since January. The cause of this is the prodigious amount of the levy made on the liquor trade and the inefficiency of the law itself. The statute is cruce, ill digested, easily evaded, and provides no adequate means of self-eniorocument and no effective meaninery by which it can be enforced.

The registers are placed, according to the law, in the place where the liquor is sold, exposed to the public view. This is sufficiently complied with by placing them on the shell behind the counter or bar, unstant several lost from the speciality of the law, in the place where the liquor is sold, exposed to the hunds and marked the liquor has a light to the from the froat of the transity of the register was

perfect collection of the tax; but the House, of which

will have to be repeated and some other more efficient tax will be imposed.

The returns of the tax in the Auditor's office are very incomplete. From many counties there are no returns or only partial ones, and it is impossible to form any approximate idea of what amount of revenue will be produced. There are about five thousand registers now in use in the State. From those returns for the months of February or March it appears that the average paid on each register varies produciously. It is impossible to estimate at present the proportion of tax to population, but the following figures are suggestive. The last returns from the following cities and counties show that the registers in use have averaged to each one the sums set forth per-register per month:—

An average of \$8.33 per month for each register, which will not be unreasonable, will produce \$100 per annum, and for 5,000 registers will yield an income of \$500,000 for the first year. But the non-execution of the

he took of the register was not at all lavorable to the cold water cause no advected. He rather thought that in the promotion of private tippling the register injured the temperance sause very considerably, and I am thoused to agree with him.

FUNERAL OF SEVERN D. MOULTON.

from the Trinity Baptist Church, Fifty-fith street and Loxington avenue. The deceased was the lather prominently in the Beecher trial. He was seventyand universally regretted. He has been long identi-fied with the educational interests of the city and fied with the educational interests of the city and served two terms in the Assembly. The church was crowded with the friends and relatives of the decessed. Among those present were Congressman Benjamin Butler, Judge Larremore, Judge Pinckney, Alfred Boyart, Jacob Herg and others. Francis D. Moulton and other relatives were also present and eccupied the front pews. The coffin was covered with black cloth, and bors the inteription "Severn D. Moutton, born June 3, 1806; died April 19, 1878." Many beautiful floral designs rested on the coffin white the funeral services were being read. The Rev. J. B. Stimmons officiated, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Powing. After the funeral service the Rev. Dr. Simmons delivered a touching eulosy on the character and qualities of the late Mr. Moulton. The following gentlemens acted as palibearers and ascompanied the remains to Greenwood Cemetery:—Fax Commissioner Wheeler, Tax Commissioner Andiews, George Jones, Wilson G. Hunt, George Whitfield, John D. Walsh, Thomas Pinckney and Thomas Lewis.

THE WORK OF ROWDIES.

About two o'clock yesterday afternoon, while car No. 10 of the Court Street and Greenwood line was turning into Hamilton avenue, South Brooklyn, tour young men, who were intoxicated, attempted to get on the rear platform. The conductor, John Rooney, bim, and dragging Roosey out into the street beat bim. The driver of the car, Daniel Lundriggen, went him. The driver of the car, Daniel Lundriggen, went to the assistance of his companion, and he too was assautted. A "crowd" gathered about and one of the rowdes picked up a large stone and threw it as Roesey, striking him on the side of the head and knocking him down. The fellow who threw the stone and his associates their ran away, but the former was arrested a lew minutes later by Officer Clary, of the Eleventh precinct, and locked up in the station house. The police are confident of their ability to arrest the other participants in the assault. The prisoner, who gives his name as Lawrence Dady, is a glassblower by trade. The wounded man was removed to a drug store, where his injuries were dressed his shuit is believed to be fractured. He was taken to his home, in the vicinity of the occurrence.

John Douohoe, alias "Butcher," twenty-n've years of age, rending at No. 102 Twenty-nish street, was arrested by Detective Daly last evening, charged with being impricated in the assault on Conductor Rooney.

MERRICK'S DAUGHTER

Patrick Merrick, of Willis avenue and 146th street, owns a pretty daughter, Bridget Merrick, twenty years old, who is loved by a young scapegrace named Joyce, Merrick forbade Joyce the house, but on love signals at the front window. Entering the house he gave Bridget a severe whipping, whereupon Joyce

KILLED BY A STREET CAR.

John O'Connor, and thirty-five, died at half-past four yesterday morning in the Charity Hospital, Jersey City, from the effects of injuries received by Jersey City, from the encode of injuries received by being run over by a street car on Saturday night. The driver of the car, John Cloer, of No. 210 Thirteenth atreet, yesterday surrendered himself to the police authorities, but Captain Jordan, of the First precinct, allowed him to go home, the accident appearing to have been the result of Connor's recklessness.

AN ANGRY OFFICIAL.

John Curtin, the newly appointed Port Warden at Hoboken, hes met with considerable trouble in get-ting the officers of the German steamships to recog-nize his authority, and, to compel them to recognize him, he threatens to keep the New York officials from the dock.

Speech of Mr. Blaine to the Opponents of Wood's Tariff.

DECREASE OF AMERICAN SHIPS EXPLAINED

Why We Are Unable to Compete with European Nations.

A GUARDED ADVOCACY OF SUBSIDIES.

on the subject of our foreign commerce and free ships, made on the occasion of the demonstration held here

the sites and the strategy and he given mod laving, and the composition of the property and he given mod laving, and the composition of the compos

prietor of this yard has expended in his business nearly \$10,000,000, and that over \$14.000,000 of it have zone to American workmen as wages for their honest laber. If that man is to be honored who causes two blades of grass to grow where only one graw before, what shall we say of him whose dauntless energy has enabled him, in the darkest period of our financial distress, to drive forward an enterprise that distributes \$2,000,000 per annum among the laborers of America, and who has made thousands of homes smile with happiness and with pienty that but for him might have been pinched with want and misery? If our country were for a lew persusient years of like mind with Great Britain and France on this great commercial question you would find all over the land great shipyards springing up to supply the demand for the steam marine of America. When we had a fair chance and equal terms our sailing vessis gained on Great Britain. Until for the last ten years before the outbreak of the rebellion we were abreast if not ahead of her in aggregate tounge, and on equal footing we would speedly do the same in our steam marine. But with England and France aiding their lines with mail contracts to drive other lines from the sea it is lide for us to enter the race. A very small amount comparatively would enable us to become the victor's intensification of the same in the struggle for ocean supremacy. What it costs us to support two regiments of cavalry in the regular army or to maintain five large men-ol-war affoat in the navy would give us lines of first commercial maten in the world. Alone of all the great Powers we have a wast frontage on the two oceans whose waters bound all the continents and flat the commerce that civilizes and earliehes the world. Our coast line is longer than that when bordere Europe; our harbors are mere numerous and more capacious than those of all our maritime rivals combined. Nature has given us the position and the power to lead the commerce that commerce when we held in 1856 the profit to our peob

OFF FOR LIBERIA.

FINAL DEPARTURE OF THE BARK AZOR FOR MONROVIA-ENTHUSIASTIC FAREWELLS-CON-DITION OF THE EMIGRANTS AND PROSPECTS FOR THE VOYAGE- INTERESTING SCENES AND

BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD. 1 CHARLESTON, April 21, 1878.

The last of the embarrassments which have attended the shipment of the advance guard of the great African exodus was overcome last evening, and, the news having spread like wildfire among the blacks of the the bark was visible were crowded with friends of the the same leeling as that with which they would few minutes after eight o'clock the tug Wade Hamp fast and the tug drew the historic bark toward the occan. It was a beautiful morning, the wind about west-southwest, with hardly a ripple on the waters.

AN ENTHUSIASTIC SEND OFF. with excursionists collected to see the fusure colonists off, and as the Azor moved away their whistles blew, emigrants-were waved, the German bark Alamo displayed a long line of fluttering flags and shouts of

the bar, about ten miles, in exactly one hour, leaving the Allison and Pocosin far astern. The Azor evi and royals were set as she left the first heaves of the broad Atlantic. As the Hampton slackened speed in crossing the bar the Allison came up, and when the hawser was cast off ran alongside the bark. The yelled, waved handkerchiels and fired pistols and Delaney, Boney and other leaders of the exedus, bade

Delaney, Boney and other leaders of the exedus, bade their charges goodby. The moment of parting had come, and the Hampton steamed back toward the etc. Now came up the Focosin, and the hurrans and goodbys were repedied.

Out on The OCEAN.

The Axor braced up her yerds, bowed in salutation to His Oceanic Majesty and, crowded with canvas, went forth on her cruse. Captain Holmes expects to run to the Capes of the Chesapeake before steering to the eastward, and hopes then for favorable winds, which will enable him to make land at the Azores or Cape Verd Islande. There is a chance that some sail homeward bound will be spoxen, and Captain Holmes will send dispatches by the first vessel spoken and from the first point touched. It is expected that the voyage out to Monrovia will be made in about twenty days.

On Priday night the prospects of a c

Full Text of Prince Gortschakoff's Circular to the Powers.

LORD SALISBURY CONTRADICTED.

What Rights the Conquerors of Turkey Are Disposed to Insist Upon Having.

Gortschakoff's reply to Lord Salisbury's note. It is dated St. Petersburg, April 7, 1878;—

The following is a careful translation of Prince Gortschakuff's reply to Lord Salisbury's note. It is dated St. Petersburg, April 7, 1878:—

Pixe—It is not accurate to say that the Treaty of San Stofano has created a new Bulgaria or a very strong siav State under the control of Russis. Bulgaria existed, though in a state of oppression. Europe perceived this, and was desirous of providing a remedy. The Constantinopic Conference indicated the measures the Picupotentiaries assembled in the Constantinopic Conference cortisally did not think of rendering them ineffications. It should be admitted that they contemplated the endowment of Bulgaria with a national existence and a real administrative autonomy. In such case the Bulgarian State, though divided in two provinces, we aid have been constituted in germ, and this germ, developing itself under the ægs of Europe, would have achieved the result which the freaty of San Stefano is designed to bring to maturity. The refusal made by the Porte, and the war by which it was followed, due not permit, in the avowal of the the Marquis of Salisbury himself, of a return pure and simple to the programme of the Conference of Constantinopic. The freaty of San Stefano only makes it obligatory on the Porte to consent to a programme of reforms more complete, more prices and more practical; but even the fact that the Freaty of San Stefano is a proliminary one indicates that in the mind of the imperial Cabinet it is only a matter of principle, without prejudging definitively the application, which requires tecunical studies, an exact appreciation of accognitical, necessates and, the conciliation of numerous interests. It is because of this that many articles are expressed in vague terms, so as to leave room for ulterior understandings as to the modifications doemed indisponasable.

EXECUTION SAN SERIES AND SAN SECOND TO PROVIDE AND

Ottomais Commissary. Moreovor, an understanding between the great Iowers and the Porto experiency renorved in officer to assign to the Russian Commissarios special delegates, ponding the provincial measures taken by the authorities. In Russians have no intension, as in affirmed, on mixing Buigaris enter the Russian political system. Scarcely anything has been changed in the institution to which the continty is acculationed. Attention has mercipleng given to the execution of the lithin, and their replacement, by a more normal imposit, the abolition of the influence, and finally, the right assigned to the Christians in mixed localities of challenge during the elections such Husselmans as are known to have been guilty of acts of fanalical persecution against the Christians. In addition, the state of sizes in which the country was placed during the war rendering independent, the state of sizes in which the country was placed during the war rendering independent. Bulgarian Vice Governors were everywhere assigned to thom, in order that after the peace, and as tranquility became reactablished in the country, the latter might be substituted for the Russian Governors were without interrupting the right assigned to taken, in order that after the peace, and as tranquility became reactablished in the country, the latter might be substituted for the Russian Governors were the rendered the mixed for the Russian Governors were the rendered to the rendered to the first and the rendered possible the meeting of the first buigarian Assembly summened to settle the institutions of the Principality.

Sixth—the assertion that the Treaty of San Stefano would extend Russian ind more object of all these preliminary measures was a protect the national devicepment and the Creak Russian industry as placed of the first and adopted by a substitution in the rendered the rendered the mixed of the first and the creaty of the first and the Creak of the Cre

ulation predominates, to the prejudice of that hation, and of all the countries having interests in the East and the Mediterraneae.

THE BRESARAMIAN RETROCESSION.

Eighth—The East-tion is at least exaggerated that the Sna Stelano stipulations respecting the retrocession of Bussarabla, the extension of Bussarabla the Black Sea, and the acquisition of the port of Batoum, would render the will of Russia predominant ever the whole of the districts of the Black Sea. Russia power-laily contributed in the past to emancipate Greece and Roumania. It is not easy to see in what manner her power has more profited thereby than that of other States. The re-rocession of Bessarabla by Roumania would be simply a return to the order of things, medified twesty-two years ago, for motives which no longer have any existence, legal title or even preext, since the interty of the navigation of the Danube has been placed under the control and guarantee of the International Commission, more especially from the moment when Roumania proclaims her independence and Europe seems disposed to recognize it. It should be remarked, moreover, that this retrocession does not inclined the whole of the part of Bossarabia ceded in 1850. The delta of the Danube is excluded, and the proposal of the Russian government is 10 reactors it to Roumania, from which it was taken in 1857. This circumstance considerably reduces the importance of the retrocession demanded, from the point of view of

its influence upon the navigation of the mouths of the

Much Battern is account of the country of Russia, withdrawing from a war which she has carried on by berself at her exclusive coat. It is, therefore, by no means gratuitous concession; it is far from being the equivalent of the pecuniary internsity which it would represent. As to the acquisitions in Armenia, they have only a decentive value. It is possible that England would prefer to see these strong positions in the hands of the Turks, but from the same movives here are all the strength of the third of the Turks, but from the same movives exercity, in order not to have to by suege to them a security, in order not to have to by suege to them a security, in order not to have to by suege to them a security, in order not to the total property of the decision of the first hands of the

ought to be made. Under present circumstances we have yet to learn how his Lordship means to practically harmonize these treaties, and the rights recognized by Great Britain and other Powers with the friendly desire toward the reshization of which the united action of Europe has siaways been directed, of good governaeut, peace and liberty for the populations to which these benedits have hitherto been wanting. It remains also to be made known how without the preliminary bases laid down by the Sau Stefano treaty His Lordship means to attain the object dosired by all while taking fairly into account the rights acquired by Russan for the sacrifices she has borne—and borne sione—in order to renuer the realization of them possible. The despatent to the Marquis of Salisbury contains no reply to those questions. This is why it seems that the considerations it contains would have more naturally found an entireliberty of appreciation and of action had the objections been accompanied by practical propositions of a nature to insure an understanding for the solution of the actual diffusivise in the general interest of a solid and durable pacification of the East.

TURKEY'S ORACLE.

TURKEY'S ORACLE.

The Russki Mer gives the following specdate as parrated by a ventriloquest to his guests. In the Sul-tan's palace, he says, there is an echo to which supernatural power is attributed. The Sultans always inquire there whenever there is danger imminent.

"L'Angleterre ?" he asked—
"Erre"—(Is in error), answers the eche.
"L'Autrone?"—
"Iriche"—(Is cheating).
"La Prusse?"—

"Le France?"—
"Russe?"—(Is Russian).
"Mes Friespautés?"—(My Principalities?)—
"Office?"—(Inden away).
"Mes Cârrasés?"—(Froncinds?)—
"Assez"—(Enough of It—é.e., do not speak of them).
"Mes Panas?"—
"Actats"—(Vensi).
"Et Suleiman?"—
"Ment?"—(Is a liar).
"Manis j'ai Moukhtar!"—
"Tard"—(Late).

"Tard"—(Late).
"Qu'ai-je pour payer tant de milliards?"—(Whas have it o pay so many milliards?)—
"Liards"—(Pence).
"Tout est pardu ai-rs? • • * mais il me resta l'Asie?"—(All is lost, then; but Asia is still left.)—
"Vas-y!"—(Go there!)

A DANGEROUS LUNATIC.

District Attorney Wicknam, of Suffolk county, has received a telegram from the superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum at Poughteepste informing him that John Gill, a lunatic sent there in 1876, had escaped John Gill, a innatic sent there in 1876, had escaped and it was supposed he might make his way back to Sufficik county. Gill Came from Ulster county, having followed his wife, who was living apart from him, and at the time employed in the family of Mr. James Otia, at Beliport. He had became a monomanise in respect to her, insisting that sue had robbed him of many thousand dollars and making other charges against her which were known to be absurd. He went to Bellport expressly to kill her and did succeed in shooting her, but not fatally. He then ran away, but was pursued, captured and lodged in Riverhoad Jail, where a commission decided him to be insane.

"THE MERRY FIVE."

There was a circus in Morrismela on Saturday night and the "Merry Five" went to see it. The "Merry Five" do not believe in paying for amusement when it can be obtained for nothing, so when the doorkeeper it can be obtained for nothing, so when the doorkesper informed the club that the "free list was emphatically suspended" the club proceeded to "put a Leng" on him. Officer James Fallon then arrived with an opposition club and offered to mediate. The "Merry Five" declined, and rolled Fallon in the gatter. Fallon pursued the club, whereupon Robert Gaffney, the president, strock him on the bead with a large stock (laffney was arrested, but his companions escaped, Judge Wandell yesterday committed Gaffney. During the stroggle Officer Fallon parted with his has at a loss of \$3. As old policeman remarked yesterday that with the old style of cap this rarely happened.

George Clark was arraigned in the Jefferson Market Pottes Court yesterday on a charge of traving stoles \$5,000 worth of lumber from Honry Demarcat's yard on Eleventh avonce. He was committed by Judge Kilbreth in \$300 for trial.